

*America Alert*  
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## **Präsident Bush begründet den Krieg: Freiheit für den Irak und Sicherheit für das amerikanische Volk als Legitimation für den militärischen Eingriff**

Präsident Bush hat in seiner Rede vor dem *American Enterprise Institute* am 26. Februar 2003 vorhandene Zweifel an der Legitimität einer militärischen Invasion des Iraks zu zerstreuen versucht und den Krieg gegen den Irak als Beginn eines Zeitalters der Freiheit und des Fortschritts dargestellt:

- Ein Regimewechsel im Irak werde als ein dramatisches Beispiel auch für die Freiheit anderer Nationen in der Region dienen.
- Der Erfolg im Irak werde auch zu einem neuen Stadium für den Friedensprozess im Nahen Osten und zu einem wirklich demokratischen palästinensischen Staat führen.
- Mit dem Abgang von Saddam Hussein werden Terrornetzwerke ihren reichen Schutzpatron verlieren.
- Für Amerika ist die Konfrontation mit dem Irak eine Demonstration des Willens, internationale Institutionen handlungsfähig zu machen, um der globalen Gefahr der Weiterverbreitung von Massenvernichtungswaffen zu begegnen.

Der Krieg als Mittel zur Lösung zentraler Fragen der Weltpolitik? Ob die tatsächlichen Folgen eines Krieges wirklich nur positiv für Demokratie und Freiheit in der Region und auch für die Sicherheit des amerikanischen Volkes sein werden, darüber kann man durchaus unterschiedlicher Meinung sein. Die amerikanische Öffentlichkeit ist jedenfalls verunsichert und kann sich immer weniger mit dem Gedanken eines Krieges anfreunden.

Das *Program on International Policy Attitudes* hat neue Umfragedaten veröffentlicht, die zeigen, dass die amerikanische öffentliche Meinung die amerikanische Außenpolitik und deren Außenwirkung zunehmend skeptisch beurteilt. Auf die Frage "Wie glauben Sie beurteilen die Menschen in anderen Ländern im Durchschnitt die Außenpolitik der USA?" antworteten 55 Prozent der Befragten "negativ". Nur noch 46 Prozent der Befragten beurteilten die Art und Weise, wie die USA die Beziehungen zu den europäischen Verbündeten gestaltet positiv, ein deutlicher Rückgang. Die neuen Umfragedaten zeigen auch, vor welcher schwieriger Lage die Bush-Administration angesichts der Doppelkrise im Irak und Nordkorea steht. Der Prozentsatz der Befragten, die einem militärischen Eingreifen im Irak auch ohne UN-Mandat zustimmen, geht wieder zurück (auf derzeit 30 Prozent), und gleichzeitig verliert auch die Nordkorea-Politik der Bush-Administration an Zustimmung. 42 Prozent der Befragten bewerteten sie "negativ."

Washington, 27.2.2003 (DD/US)

Dokumente:

Rede von Präsident Bush beim *Annual Dinner* des *American Enterprise Institute* in Washington, 26.2.2003  
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Dana Milbank, Peter Slevin, "President Details Vision for Iraq," *The Washington Post*, February 27, 2003  
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Elisabeth Bumiller, "President Says Ousting Hussein Could Aid Peace In Mideast," *The New York Times*, February 27, 2003

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/27/international/middleeast/27IRAQ.html>

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PIPA Polls:

**Monday, February 24, 2003**

PIPA is a joint program of the Center on Policy Attitudes (COPA <<http://www.policyattitudes.org/>> ) and the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM <<http://www.puaf.umd.edu/CISSM/default.htm>> ), School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland <<http://www.umd.edu/>> .

**US Public's Perceptions of How Other Countries View US Foreign Policy Increasingly Negative**

Amid intensifying international criticism and worldwide demonstrations against US policy on Iraq, the US public's perceptions of how other countries view US foreign policy continues to move in a negative direction. Asked, "on average, how do you think people in other countries rate how well the US is managing its foreign policy," a majority of 55% now gives a negative rating (19% neutral, 23% positive). The net rating (percentage giving positive ratings minus percentage giving a negative rating) has declined 6 percentage points since January and 16 percentage points since November, and now stands at minus 31%. Asked specifically about European allies, 47% of US respondents assumed that people in those countries have a negative attitude toward US foreign policy (neutral 20%, positive 28%). The net rating has declined 8 percentage points since January and 31 percentage points since November, and now stands at minus 20%.

**Continuing Decline in US Public's Ratings of US Policy Re: Europe, Russia, North Korea**

Perhaps in part due to the above-mentioned perceived declines in other countries' approval of US policy, Americans are also showing a continuing reduction in their satisfaction with US foreign policy on several fronts.

Asked how well the US is "handling relations with our European allies," the percentage giving a positive rating has slipped to 46% (neutral 20%, negative 25%). The net rating is still a positive 21%, but down from a positive 36% in January and a positive 42% in November.

Views of US handling of relations with Russia have also slipped. Positive ratings stand at 45% (neutral 22%, negative 23%). Here too, while the net is still quite positive at plus 22%, it is significantly lower than in January at plus 31%, and in November at plus 39%.

US handling of relations with North Korea has dropped sharply, with 42% now giving it a negative rating (neutral 21%, positive 33%). The net rating is now a negative 9%, down 10 percentage points from January.

None of the areas rated showed any significant positive movement, while the overall foreign policy rating was statistically unchanged at plus 15%.

Questionnaire <[http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/Ratings/ratings\\_feb.pdf](http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/Ratings/ratings_feb.pdf)>

**Gallup Poll Finds Reversion to Insistence on UN Approval**

A new Gallup poll finds that the surge in readiness to act against without UN approval that occurred in the wake of Colin Powell's presentation to the UN Security Council has dissipated. In a February 7-9 poll Gallup found an increase in those willing to invade with Iraq without UN approval to 39% from 33% in an earlier poll. However the new February 17-19 poll finds this percentage has gone back down to 30%. The percentage insisting on a UN vote now stands at 40%, while those opposed to any action stands at 26%. See [www.pollingreport.com](http://www.pollingreport.com/) <<http://www.pollingreport.com/>> for more details.

**New PIPA/Knowledge Networks Poll Finds If Diplomacy Fails With N. Korea, Only a Minority Supports Moving Toward Military Action If S. Korea Opposed**

Following up on the PIPA/KN January poll that found a very large majority in favor of the US negotiating with North Korea, the new February 12-18 poll found that only a minority of 37% would support moving toward military action if South Korea were opposed.

Initially a modest majority (54%) said that if US diplomatic and economic efforts fail to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, it would favor the US "moving toward" military action. However, if South Korea would be opposed—which in fact it is--the percentage drops to 37%, with 51% opposed and 12% unsure.

It should be noted that the 54% initially expressed support for "moving toward" military action, not necessarily military action per se. In a February Los Angeles Times poll only 37% said that the U.S. should "take military action against North Korea" if diplomacy fails.

It should also be noted, though, that if military action against North Korea is presented as a UN operation, not simply a US operation, support for military action can be much higher. When a January Time/CNN poll asked about the "the US-along with the UN...tak[ing] military action to destroy North Korea's nuclear facilities" if the North Korea was producing radioactive material to make bombs, 62% expressed support.

Ratings of US handling of relations with North Korea have taken a sharp drop since January, with a plurality of 42% now giving it a negative rating (neutral 21%, positive 33%). The overall net rating--percentage giving a positive rating minus percentage giving a negative rating--has slipped 10 percentage points from plus 1 to minus 9.

Other findings:

--Four out of five respondents knew that the US has troops based in South Korea.

--A modest majority (53%) said the US could successfully fight wars against Iraq and North Korea at the same time.

<[http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/N\\_Korea/NKFeb\\_q.pdf](http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/N_Korea/NKFeb_q.pdf)>

Questionnaire <[http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/N\\_Korea/NKFeb\\_q.pdf](http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/N_Korea/NKFeb_q.pdf)>

**The Americans and the World Digest**

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